25, WILTON PLACE.
London S.W.

Sept 12/75

My dear Gray

As I am now sending Solanaceae to the printers I have had to make up my mind about Oryctes of which I return your specimen enclosed. It appears to me to be nearly allied both to Chamaesaracha and to [illegible] but if the fruiting calyx does not enlarge any more than in this specimen it cannot be united with the latter whilst the corolla appears to be very different from that of the former so I leave it for the present as a distinct genus with the characters chiefly taken from S. Watson

I am now in the thick of

3. Petalidieae – with a peculiar capsule (Petalidium including Pseudobarleria, Phaylopsis, Daedalacanthus and Blechum)

4. Trichanthereae (Sanchezia or Ancylogyne, Sclerocalyx, Trichanthera and Bravaisia or Onychacanthus)

5. Strobilantheae – well distinguished from Euruellieae by the insertion of the stamens (Hemigraphis including most of Nees' Ruellias, Stenosiphonium, Strobilanthes and [illegible]thera)

I am now making seven or eight genera which Oersted made out of Barleria

Having done Gesneraceae & Bignoniaceae I shall when I have got through Acanthaceae have got through the difficulties of my task – for Verbenaceae & Labiatae will be very easy.

I sent you a few days since three sheets down to Morrenia p. 772 ~~three~~ four more are in type including Loganiaceae Gentianaceae Polemoniaceae & Hydrophyllaceae & Boragineae are begun upon.

Yours very sincerely
George Bentham

6. Campanulas with dimorphous (cleistanthous) flowers are two or three small-flowered E. Indian species – and perhaps [illegible] – but of this I am not sure

Acanthaceae, the arrangement of which is much facilitated by Dr: T. Anderson's labours — He seems to have had very good ideas of genera and species though his characters are too superficial to be of much use and not rarely erroneous — that is taken from one or two species and not checked on the introduction of others into the same genus. I should go even beyond him in the amalgamation of Nees's genera supposed to be founded on differences in the form of the corolla etc — I include in Ruellia (Dipteracanthus of Nees) not only Neowedia and Aphragmia which Nees himself united (though more different than some that he separated) but also Cryphiacanthus Ophthalmacanthus Stephanophysum Siphonacanthus Stemonacanthus Scorodoxylum Arrhostoxylum some of which Anderson was half disposed to keep up — but they are mainly founded on the form of the corolla which varies from species to species, etc. yet however I have only gone through the Thunbergieae the Nelsonieae and the Ruellieae amongst which the North American genera are very plain sailing. I subdivide them rather differently from Anderson Nelsonieae (Elytraria Nelsonia & Ebermaiera) have not the contorted estivation of Ruellieae and very different seeds — Cardanthera (Adenosma Nees non Br.) goes into Hygrophila notwithstanding the almost want of retinacula. Ruellieae I include

1 Hygrophileae (Cardanthera Hygrophila Nomaphila and doubtfully Brillantaisia)

2 Euruellieae (Calophanes Ruellia Echinacanthus and Chonacanthus — Dischistocalyx and Whitfieldia)